

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SMS-01 ACDA-12 /089 W
-----110599 251834Z /47

P R 251520Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6082
USLO PEKING
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2291

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJECT: GOC-PRC RELATIONS - AMBASSADOR LI EN-CHIU DEPARTING

1. PRC AMBASSADOR LI EN-CHIU TELLS ME THAT AFTER SPENDING
OVER THREE YEARS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HE WILL BE RETURNING TO
PEKING "IN ONE MONTH". ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE ASSIGNED
TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY POSITION, LI DODGED THE QUESTION AND
LEFT HIS ONGOING ASSIGNMENT UNCLEAR.

2. AMBASSADOR LI'S DEPARTURE COMES AT A TIME OF CONSIDERABLE
STRAIN IN CZECHOSLOVAK-CHINESE RELATIONS, AS PRAGUE FOLLOWS
MOSCOW'S LEAD IN STEPPING UP POLEMICAL ATTACKS AGAINST THE
POST-MAO PRC LEADERSHIP. CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA, FOR EXAMPLE,
ARE CURRENTLY ATTACKING HUA KUO-FENG BALKAN VISITS, ESPECIALLY
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HIS STATEMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ARE HEAVILY BACKING
VIET NAM IN ITS DISPUTE WITH PRC.

3. COMMENT: WHILE IN PRAGUE, AMBASSADOR LI HAS
MAINTAINED CORDIAL ALBEIT SOMEWHAT DISTANT
RELATIONS WITH MYSELF AND SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS.
HIS ARMY ATTACHE INVITED OUR FORMER DEFENSE ATTACHE

TO A SMALL FAREWELL LUNCHEON. EMBOFFS RECALL THAT DURING THE POLITICAL MANEUVERING IN PEKING WHICH FOLLOWED MAO'S DEATH, AMBASSADOR LI EN-CHIU MADE IT SURPRISINGLY CLEAR THAT HE FAVORED THE REHABILITATION OF TENG HSIAO-PING AND LIKE-MINDED CHINESE POLITICAL FIGURES INTERESTED IN INTERNAL MODERNIZATION AND EXTERNAL BROADENING OF PRC TIES WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST. LI HAS ALSO ROUTINELY DERIDED HEAVY-HANDED SOVIET POLICIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S KOW-TOWING TO MOSCOW.

4. AS SOMEWHAT RELATED ITEM, JAPANESE DCM RECENTLY CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE TO EXPLAIN JAPANESE-CHINESE TREATY. HE WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED AND THANKED FOR EXPLANATION, BUT CZECHS MADE NO OTHER COMMENT. BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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